



VIOLA

Korey Konkol: Awards and Achievements

by J. David Arnott

Korey Konkol has been Minnesota's premiere viola pedagogue since 1992 and there are two great reasons to feature him in this issue. Korey is that rare combination of an absolutely first-rate performer combined with an exquisite pedagogical style that leaves his students employed as musicians. The release of a new CD recording of viola works by João Guilherme Ripper and his having been chosen to receive a major teaching award from the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota make this an opportune moment for adulation.

Arthur "Red" Motley Exemplary Teaching Award

The University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts bestows The Arthur "Red" Motley Exemplary Teaching Award upon "an outstanding teacher of graduate and undergraduate students" and Korey is the first member of the applied instrumental music department to receive this honor. Recognition comes in many forms—and it is always nice when it comes in such a visible and distinguished form.

"This award acknowledges Prof. Konkol as a faculty member who inspires and cares, makes himself approachable, shows an interest in individual students' well-being and in programs for the benefit of students generally, gives of himself generously in advising, counseling, and directing projects, as well as creating an active classroom atmosphere. Konkol provides a model to undergraduate and graduate students through his own research and teaching, leaving an impression by his efforts which alumni recall with appreciation and esteem." Sponsored by a gift from the family and friends of College of Liberal Arts alumnus Arthur Motley and other alumni of the college, Prof. Konkol will be honored at the

CLA's Faculty Excellence Event on April 17.

CD: Brazilian Triptych: Konkol Plays Ripper

Containing music written for and dedicated to Korey, *Brazilian Triptych: Konkol Plays Ripper* is a luscious collection of new works for viola in both chamber and solo settings. The viola is featured prominently in each of the three works and each work offers the viola a variety of ways in which to shine as both a solo instrument as well as a collaborating timbre in chamber settings. The CD has already garnered critical praise in the March/April issue of *Fanfare* magazine:

"Konkol's playing throughout is dead-on in pitch and rhythmic accuracy, and he produces a rich, lush tone...praiseworthy in every respect."

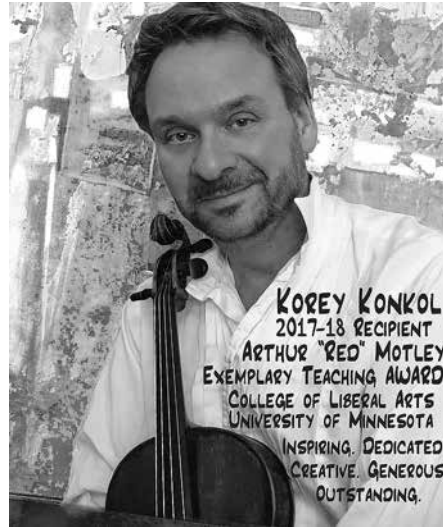
"...the performances are loving and expert."

In Korey's own words he states that his passions include "...the showcasing of new music that allows the viola to shine and develop equal partnerships with other instruments. My goal is to build new audiences for the viola and its repertory through committed performances and recordings. Promoting and encouraging newly-written classical music featuring the viola expands the repertoire for 21st-century violists."

The *Concertino for Viola and String Orchestra* (1988, revised 2009) is a three-movement work for solo viola and strings featuring the University of Minnesota Camerata conducted by Ernesto Estigarribia. It

contains a cadenza that showcases Konkol's extreme mastery of musicality, technical brilliance and lush tone.

The marvelous *Trio for Clarinet, Viola and Piano* from 2006 is set as a single movement, which wanders through a variety of distinctly Brazilian rhythms and melodies. Clarinetist John Anderson and pianist Timothy



Lovelace join Korey.

The three movements of *From My Window No. 1* are written for oboe, viola and piano, and are in the same lyrical style as the viola, clarinet, piano trio, but their titles reflect specific locations in and around Rio de Janeiro (the composer's birthplace). For this work Korey is joined by oboist Valarie Anderson and pianist Margo Garrett.

Together these three works offer a lovely listening experience in tonality, viola fireworks, Latin rhythms and first-rate artistry. It is a truly memorable experience. The recording is available at www.jeanne-inc.com.

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